

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /078 W

-----094672 181357Z /43

O 181305Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6795

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 317

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, SF, PORG

SUBJ: RHODESIA - ARTICLE REPORTS ALLEGED SAG VIEWS

1. THE CONSERVATIVE PRO-SAG "THE CITIZEN" FEB 17 CARRIES AN ARTICLE FROM CAPE TOWN BY JAAP THERON REPORTING THE VIEWS OF A "TOP SOUTH AFRICAN GOVT SOURCE" ON THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE SOURCE SAID THAT "NO MATTER HOW ONE LOOKED AT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, THE SCENE WAS HOPEFUL". RHODESIA, ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, COULD SOON REACH AN ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENT IF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PARTNERS USE THIS CONSENSUS AS A BASIS FOR AGREEMENT WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. THE SOURCE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT MUGABE AND NKOMO WERE BOTH PHYSICALLY OUTSIDE RHODESIA AND OUTSIDE THE CONSENSUS, AND THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO WATCH OUT THAT THEY WERE NOT "LEFT IN THE COLD".

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2. A PASSAGE IN THE ARTICLE WHICH REFERRED TO SAG SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE BLACK GOVT IN RHODESIA DID NOT DIRECTLY QUOTE THE GOVT SOURCE, BUT THE CONTEXT IMPLIED THAT THIS PASSAGE ALSO REFLECTED THE VIEWS OF THE SAME SOURCE. THE PASSAGE READS AS FOLLOWS:
"A MODERATE BLACK GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA, FOR INSTANCE WITH BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA AS PRIME MINISTER, WILL PUT

THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN A MUCH STRONGER POSITION TO ANSWER A CALL FOR HELP IN RHODESIA THAN WOULD BE THE POSITION IN CASE OF A CALL FROM A WHITE MINORITY GOVERNMENT. IT IS EXPECTED SOUTH AFRICA WOULD PLAY A STRONG ROLE IN BUILDING THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF RHODESIA UP ONCE A MODERATE BLACK GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED."

3. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH A STATEMENT BY THE SOURCE THAT IT IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA TO WORK OUT THEIR OWN FUTURE AND "WE WILL CONTINUE TO WISH THEM WELL AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO WORK OUT A CONSOLIDATED FUTURE".

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHO THERON'S "TOP GOVT SOURCE" IS. THE NEWS EDITOR OF THE CITIZEN, MARSHAL WILSON, HAS TOLD US THAT IN THE PAST THAT THERON WAS PUT ON THE PAPER BECAUSE OF HIS GOVT CONNECTIONS AND THAT HE HAS EASY ACCESS TO GOVT LEADERS.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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